

Spring brings garden fever



It may be easier at BPA headquarters than most places to tell when spring is finally here. That's when people make some distinct changes in behavior and dress at work.

Some can be seen gazing out the windows, wondering why the sun shines while they're indoors. Others wear gardening clothes to work on casual Fridays.

But the surest sign of all that spring is here – regardless of the weather at the moment – is when employees show up at work with boxes and plastic planters full of garden goodies. The booty of their garden thinning that they are happy to give away to fellow workers. And then when these and other employees get to the cul-de-sac 15 minutes before noon to scout available plants.

Well, they did all that again in mid-April at BPAs fourth spring plant swap. And the cofounders of the event were there to make sure everyone got a fair chance for the plants they wanted. Alan Crymes hit the bell at noon to open the plant take and carry time. Linda Krugel and Randi Thomas checked selections and helped gardeners with information on the various plants.

This year's free spring swap was the largest yet. More people brought more plants to give away, and more accommodating gardeners were there to pick plants for their home plots and pots. ◀



Giving helps needy nations

BPA workers and friends donated 374 pairs of eyeglasses in 1999 to help people in third-world countries. And they gave dozens of eyeglass cases and many used hearing aids.

The Associates Foundation collects the items at BPA headquarters. Each service center has a drop box. The foundation then turns the items over to the Oregon Lions Sight and Hearing Foundation. The national Lions group repairs, cleans and checks all sight and hearing aids. It then distributes them to people in poorer countries.

The Oregon Lions group sent a thank-you to the Associates and BPA employees for their giving last year.

Workers and visitors can drop off items at any service center or the Associates center, Room B155 in the headquarters basement. People elsewhere can send them to Deborah Maria - PGGB/6, Bonneville Power Administration, P.O. Box 3621, Portland OR 97208-3621. ◀

April was a big month for green power at BPA. Announcements of green power sales, new alliances and renewable energy projects came one after the other.

BPA signed a letter of intent to buy the output from 28 more wind turbines at the Foote Creek wind farm in Arlington, Wyo. This adds 16.8 megawatts to the project, which is owned by SeaWest.

BPA signed a power purchase agreement to buy the output from a photovoltaic array at Ashland, Ore. The city's system is being installed on business buildings including the Shakespeare festival's Angus Bowmer Theater. And BPA signed a \$900,000 five-year contract agreement with the University of Oregon to fund a regional solar radiation data center. The center will support future development of solar energy in the region.

The agency also signed a contract with Portland General Electric to sell it up to 14 average megawatts of new wind power.

Administrator Judi Johansen signed another agreement with the region's states and utilities. BPA will fund the Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance for another five years at a level that may total \$50 million.

BPA, the four Northwest states and the Department of Energy Seattle region have formed the Northwest Solar Alliance. The alliance promotes the national Million Solar Roofs Initiative and will support the region's solar industry.

BPA is building up its portfolio of renewable energy resources. Its goal is to sell 450 aMW of environmentally preferred power, the more correct label for what is loosely called green power, by 2006. That's about five percent of BPAs total power sales. About 300 MW will come from low-impact hydro and the remaining 150 MW will come from other sources, mostly wind.

In its subscription program, BPA is offering an array of green power products. They combine low-impact hydro and other renewables at a range of prices. Eight public utilities already purchase green power from BPA. More deals are in the works. Cumulative sales of green power total 22.7 aMW.

So far, BPAs green power sales have brought in \$2.5 million in premiums. Some of the green power premiums go to the Bonneville Environmental Foundation. It reinvests them to develop more renewable resources, such as the City of Ashland solar project. BPA invests all of the green premiums it earns in these sales into additional renewable resource projects.

Besides the premiums from green power sales, BPA has budgeted \$15 million per year to develop new renewables. BPA has 17.1 MW of capacity already installed at the Foote Creek wind farm. And BPA is considering purchasing 30 aMW from a geothermal project. Two potential sites for geothermal power are located in Northern California and are now before the U.S. Forest Service and

Bureau of Land Management for decisions.

Lots of resources are on the slate, but "the key to making this work," says BPA's Al Ingram of the green power development team, "is getting customers to work with us."

The PGE wind deal is a good example. Most retail consumers who pay a premium for green power do so because they want to contribute to developing new renewable resources. They don't want to pay for wind farms that already exist. At the same time, renewable resource developers want to know they have a market before they develop new resources.

Under its contract with BPA, PGE signs up the retail customers for wind power, and then BPA supplies the wind power. PGE customers can buy 100 kilowatt-hour blocks of PGE's Clean Wind product for an additional \$5 per month. PGE can ask for additional wind power if it has enough customer demand.

Account executive Dennis Oster says BPAs goal is to be able to develop another wind farm in the Pacific Northwest to supply the renewables needs of all BPA customers.

"We see this program as a way to show environmental leadership," says Oster. "We use the marketplace to create opportunities to invest in good works that benefit the region." ◀

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Green Power at BPA